



*Middlebury College
Bulletin*

BREAD LOAF

School of English
and
Writers' Conference

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Address for further information about the
Writers' Conference and the School of English:

Bread Loaf Office
Middlebury College
Middlebury, Vermont 05753
Tel. 802-388-7662

Administrative Staff

Paul M. Cubeta, Director of the School
of English
Robert Pack, Director of the Writers' Conference
Edward A. Martin, Administrative Director of
the Writers' Conference
Anne Hoover, Bread Loaf Secretary

Calendar

School of English 1975:
June 25 — August 9
School of English 1976:
June 30 — August 14
School of English 1977:
June 29 — August 13
Writers' Conference 1975:
August 12 — August 24
Writers' Conference 1976:
August 17 — August 29
Writers' Conference 1977:
August 16 — August 28

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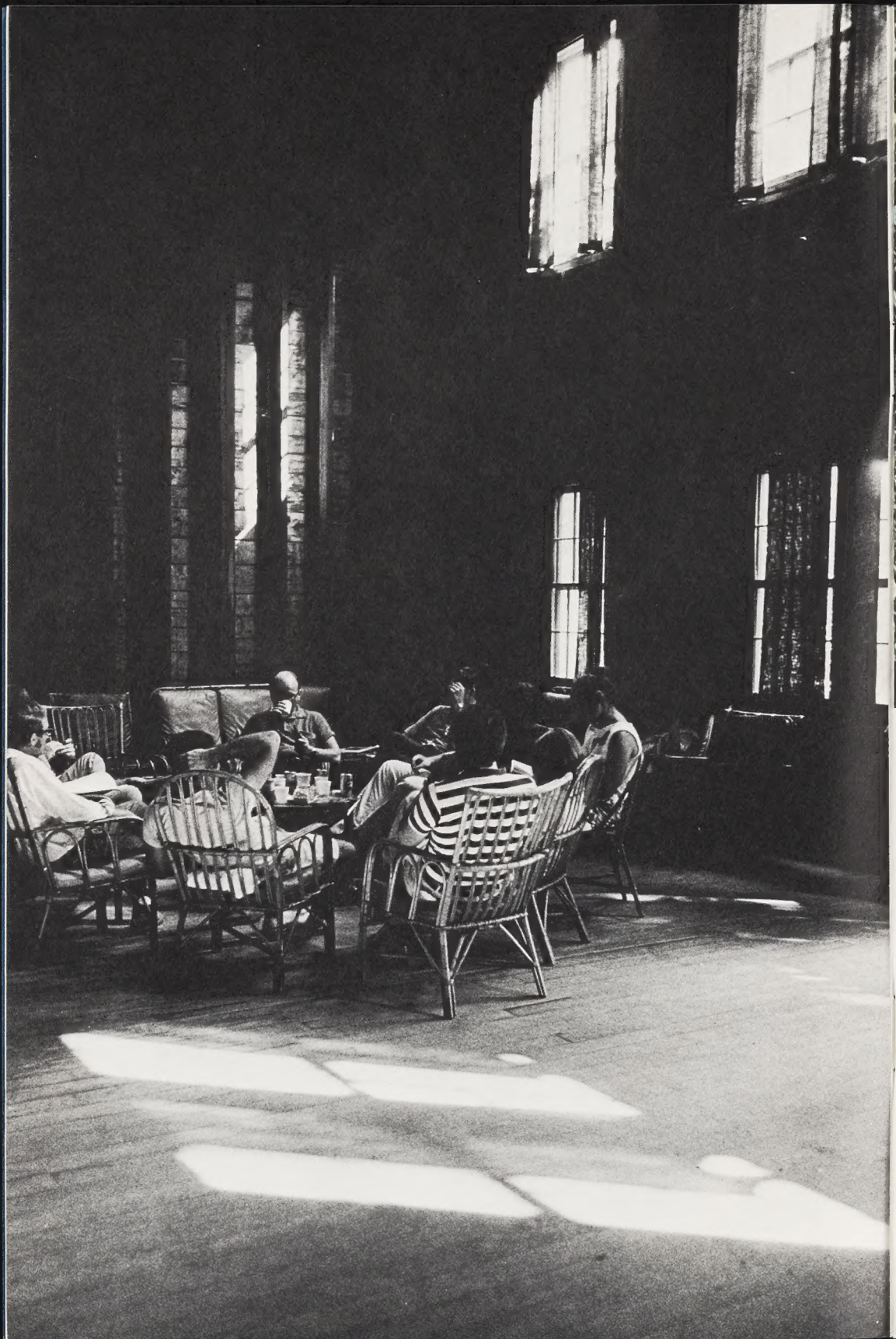




Introduction

A lifetime lover of New England, Robert Frost was associated both with the Bread Loaf School of English and the Writers' Conference from the era of their founding in the 1920s until his death in 1963. Frost symbolized the link between the literary "act of creation" and the study of literature as a vital, humane enterprise. On the mountain in the Vermont summer today, that link continues. The Director of the School of English once wrote: "The emphasis at Bread Loaf has always been upon the personal bond between teacher and student, upon the creative, critical and organic, rather than the mechanical and pedantic, and upon the liveliness of literature, writing and dialogue." The description applies to the Writers' Conference as well.

The following pages describe something of what goes on at Bread Loaf during the summer. For more timely information — faculty, staff, fees, specific courses and activities — consult the bulletins prepared late each winter by the School of English and the Writers' Conference. If one has already corresponded with the School or Conference, the appropriate bulletin and application form will automatically be mailed. Others may write to the address inside the front cover for further information.





Bread Loaf Past and Present

Middlebury College was willed the Bread Loaf Inn and extensive surrounding lands in 1915 by Joseph Battell, breeder of Morgan horses, proprietor of the local newspaper and lover of nature. Battell had acquired thousands of mountain acres during a long lifetime, and friends were so attracted to his holdings that he had an inn built to accommodate them.

In most respects the Old Bread Loaf Inn, with its rambling three floors, its yellow clapboard exterior, and its many out-buildings (some almost as commodious as the Inn itself), all are as they were when School and Conference began a half-century ago.

The road over Middlebury Gap is paved now, the kitchen of the Inn has been modernized a bit, and some of the mountain farmland nearby has since returned to forest. But the cavernous barn with its great fieldstone fireplace and wicker chairs; the little clusters of lawn chairs about the grounds; the central dining hall and outlying cottages; and the stillness and purity of the surrounding Green Mountain National Forest: all help ensure that the most important activity at Bread Loaf — dialogue — may continue now, as then, free of distraction.





**Bread Loaf's
"Pastoral Simplicity"**

Freedom from distraction does not mean there is nothing to do at Bread Loaf — only that the diversions are quieter, more slowly paced than the entertainments of a city. Nearby one may find swimming both in bracing mountain streams and warmer lakes; excellent trout fishing; hiking on the 245-mile Long Trail through the Green Mountain National Forest (it passes within a mile of the Bread Loaf campus); golf at the Middlebury College course in town; and horseback riding, country auctions, country stores, crafts centers. At Bread Loaf itself there are tennis, swimming, volleyball, croquet and softball.

Most students in the School of English, and most Writers' Conference members, live at Bread Loaf, where housing is comfortable but not elegant; most rooms are doubles, without private baths. Those who enroll should be ready to enjoy the pleasures of Bread Loaf's pastoral simplicity.

There are no accommodations on campus for families or for camping, but cabins, houses, apartments, and campgrounds in the surrounding communities are available. A directory prepared by the Bread Loaf secretary will help married students and Conference members locate such housing on their own, if they desire it.

**The School and
the Conference**

The Bread Loaf School of English began in the summer of 1920. Faculty members, who come to Bread Loaf from fulltime positions at other institutions, have included William Arrowsmith, Harold Bloom, Reuben Brower, Carlos Baker, Donald Davidson, Elizabeth Drew, Perry Miller, Martin Price, John Crowe Ransom and Lawrence Thompson. Robert Frost, whose simple summer cabin is down the road a mile, first came up to the School in 1921, and returned every summer but three until his death. Today, about 200 graduate students and 14 faculty members gather for six weeks each summer to create anew a community devoted to the humanistic ideals of the liberal arts in graduate education. Offering the Master of Arts and Master of Letters degrees, the School views its programs as an experience in the mastery of the literary arts, and it affirms a commitment to literary concerns, not to a collection of credits. Summer at the School of English is a time for discovery, not only of literature but of a place and a community.

Frost also was at the opening session of the *Writers' Conference* in 1926, among those who participated in its creation. First of its kind anywhere, the Writers' Conference annually convenes during two weeks in late August, drawing together about 200 established and prospective writers of fiction, poetry, children's books, and nonfiction, as well as others, many of them teachers, who are interested in hearing good talk about both the craft and the profession. Some recent staff members: John Ciardi (director 1955-72), Harry Crews, Seymour Epstein, John Gardner, William Gass, Walter Goodman, Anthony Hecht, Maxine Kumin, William Meredith, Peter Schrag, Mark Strand, Dan Wakefield and Mona Van Duyn.

The following pages contain more specific information about, first, the School of English, and then the Writers' Conference.







The Bread Loaf School of English

Admission: The School of English offers only graduate courses, and undergraduates are accepted only under exceptional circumstances. Degree and non-degree candidates are considered for admission. Admission is on the basis of college transcripts and two letters of recommendation. Since the program of study is designed to meet individual needs, there is no set of requisites for admission. Although an excellent undergraduate record in English and strong recommendations are the surest admissions criteria, experience has shown that students who have mediocre college records or who have majored in other disciplines may, with teaching experience, have achieved a perspective that will assure them of distinguished records at Bread Loaf. In short, Bread Loaf prefers to allow applicants to establish their capabilities during the first summer. Students are accepted for one summer only and are readmitted only after demonstrating that degree requirements can be successfully met.

The bulletin, issued each winter, contains further information about application and registration.



Degree Programs

School of English

The Master of Arts [M.A.] Degree: Candidates must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college. Students are admitted to candidacy for the degree *after* their first summer. To earn the M.A., students must successfully complete ten courses, the equivalent of 30 graduate credits. The normal summer program of study consists of two courses, each meeting five hours a week; exceptional students may, with permission, take a third course for credit. A grade of 80 is required in order to receive course credit.

The curriculum is divided into five groups: (I) creative and performing arts; the art of teaching; (II) English language and literature through the 17th century; (III) English literature since the 17th century; (IV) American literature; (V) classical and continental literature. Ordinarily the M.A. program includes a minimum of two courses each from Groups II and III; and one course each from Groups IV and V.

The Master of Letters [M. Litt.] Degree: The M. Litt. program builds in a concentrated, specialized way on the broader base of the M.A. in English, which is the first prerequisite for this degree. Students concentrate in either a period such as the Renaissance, a genre like the novel, or a field of study like American Literature or theatre arts and dramatic literature.

The M. Litt. can be earned in three to five summers by following a program of ten courses or Independent Reading Programs. No thesis is required. Candidates may engage in as many as four Winter Independent Reading Programs during the intervening academic years and must undertake at least one such program or a Summer Independent Reading Program. In the final summer a student must pass a comprehensive written and oral examination covering his or her field of concentration.

The program is limited to highly qualified candidates. Students who have completed the M.A. at Bread Loaf with distinction may continue for the M. Litt. Students not previously at Bread Loaf may be admitted if they hold an M.A. Candidates presenting an M.A. from another institution are accepted provisionally for the first summer.



Courses, Programs

School of English

Courses: More than 20 courses are offered each summer under the five groupings listed above (see "The Master of Arts Degree"). Specific courses are described in the bulletin issued each winter. Some recent titles: *Greek Tragedy, Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, 18th-century Literature and Art, Epic and Tragedy, 19th-century Novel, The Myth of America, Puritanism and American Literature, Faulkner, Yeats and Joyce, Modern Poetry, The Pastoral, Film History, Theatrical Production, Theatre Games, Acting Workshop, Writing Poetry, and Teaching English.*

Theatre Program: Each summer a major dramatic production is directed by a faculty member, and a program of one-acts is directed by students. Recent major productions: *Twelfth Night, Coriolanus, The Miser, Heartbreak House, Uncle Vanya* and *Mother Courage*. Students have produced plays by Pinter, Ionesco and Lorca. Everyone at Bread Loaf is encouraged to join in all aspects of mounting a production — costuming, set construction, sound and lighting, acting, stage managing — in the pleasant informal atmosphere of the Little Theatre. Academic credit is given for major contributions in acting, directing or production. The theatre program offers an ideal area of concentration for the M. Litt. degree.

Independent Winter Reading Program: With permission, qualified students may undertake a program of independent reading during the academic year. The student must have passed a course at Bread Loaf in the area of the proposed program with a grade of 90 or higher. Each Reading Program culminates in a long essay and an oral examination at Bread Loaf at the beginning of the subsequent summer. Successful completion of the program is evaluated as a regular Bread Loaf course. Two reading programs in different years are permitted toward the M.A. degree and four toward the M. Litt. A tuition fee is charged for each program.









**Bread Loaf-
Newton Program,
Auditors,
Transfer Credit**

School of English

A program in cooperation with the Newton, Mass., school system offers four years of summer study at Bread Loaf and three years of supervised, salaried teaching experience at Newton, leading to the M.A. in English. The program, which meets certification requirements in Massachusetts, is also open to teachers with limited experience. The students begin with summer study at Bread Loaf, and then move to Newton, where they teach under supervision at Newton North high school. At the end of the second year, Newton evaluates the candidates' supervised teaching, for which Bread Loaf awards two course credits. Applications for the program must reach the Director of the School of English by April 15. For further details, write to the Director.

Auditors: In addition to the two courses taken for credit, students are encouraged to enroll without charge as auditors in a third course. Non-credit students are occasionally admitted to Bread Loaf at the regular tuition.

Transfer Credits: A limited amount of graduate work may, with approval, be transferred from other accredited institutions. The program for the M.A. or M. Litt. may include no more than six transferred credits, normally earned in language or literature. Thus, if six credits are transferred, each degree may be earned in four summers and in exceptional cases in three.

Graduate credits transferred from other institutions expire ten years after completion of the study. Credits transferred must be accepted toward the Master's degree in English at the institution where they were earned, and must be of B grade (80) or better. Graduate credits earned at Bread Loaf expire after ten years. Credits earned at Bread Loaf are generally transferable to other graduate institutions.







Financial Aid, Fees, Other Features

School of English

Financial Aid: Funds for scholarships and work aid (primarily waiterships) are limited, and competition among applicants with demonstrated need is keen. To be considered for aid, a student must submit a Student's Financial Statement (SFS) to the Middlebury College Financial Aid Office. Requests for financial aid should be made when applying for admission. Forms are sent to applicants *after* they have been accepted. Special consideration is given to teachers of the disadvantaged, urban or rural.

Also, most states now sponsor and guarantee their own student loan programs with the federal government. Interested students should apply through their local bank.

Fees: The administration reserves the right to make changes without notice in courses, Staff, for tuition, board and room fees and all other arrangements. Current fees and manner of payment are described in the bulletin.

Other Features:

- A picnic at the nearby Robert Frost farm and a tour of the Frost cabin are a popular annual tradition.
- Several times each week classic, experimental, or modern films are shown.
- Students may also join the Bread Loaf Madrigalists, who give several informal concerts each summer.
- Textbooks, stationery and supplies are sold in the Bread Loaf Inn bookstore.



The
Bread Loaf
Writers'
Conference

" . . . The imagination pressing back against the pressure of reality . . . seems, in the last analysis, to have something to do with our self-preservation; and that, no doubt, is why the expression of it, the sound of its words, helps us to live our lives."

— *Wallace Stevens*

At the Writers' Conference the main subjects are writing as a skill (a crafty art), and writing as a trade or profession. Through lectures, discussion groups, workshops, panels, and readings, the craft of writing poetry, fiction and nonfiction is discussed both formally and informally; in addition, such subjects as the editing of manuscripts, the submission of scripts to the various media, author/editor/publisher/agent relations, writing for children, and the teaching of writing are presented. The sound of words is everywhere.

The Conference Staff is made up of professional writers who have shown themselves to be effective teachers. Normally in residence are five fiction writers, five poets, one writer of nonfiction, and one writer of children's literature, all of whom lecture and conduct discussion groups, workshops, panel discussions, and individual conferences. About ten visiting editors, publishers, book reviewers, and agents lead sessions in the areas of their special competences.

The isolated mountain atmosphere is conducive to the rapid forming of friendship and trust which in turn add to the excitement and intensity of Bread Loaf conversation.

Every day during the Conference there are typically three sessions in the morning, two in the afternoon, and a lecture or reading by a Staff member or a visiting writer in the evening. During the first half of the Conference the schedule includes lectures by Staff on their craft, small discussion groups in which problems of the craft are discussed, and lectures (or panels) by visiting professionals on aspects of writing as a trade. During the second half the program of lectures by visitors and the evening talks continue with a series of workshops in which Contributors' manuscripts are discussed. In private consultation with a Staff member, each Contributor receives suggestions and criticisms regarding his or her own manuscript. Here is where reality presses back against the imagination.

And Wallace Stevens' self-preserving talk goes on everywhere, all the time.



Classes of
Membership

Writers' Conference

Contributors: Those who wish to bring manuscripts for criticism by the Staff should apply for admission as Contributors. Contributors submit, at the time of application, examples of the *kind of writing for which they will later expect criticism at Bread Loaf*. Contributors may submit writing in only *one* field. Publications, work in progress, or completed manuscripts may be sent; drama, film, or television scripts cannot normally be accepted, although in certain years some exceptions may be made, depending on special Staff competences. The Directors reserve the right to limit the amount of material submitted at the Conference by a Contributor.

Auditors: Those who do not wish to submit manuscripts should apply for admission as Auditors. They do not bring manuscripts for Staff criticism; otherwise their privileges do not differ from those of Contributors: they are invited to participate in all of the discussions and workshops.

Admission: The basis of admission for a Contributor will be the examples of work submitted with the application. Admitted first will be those who, in the judgment of the Directors, show *potential* as writers. No one should assume that acceptance as a Contributor is an inevitable step to literary discovery and fame. A writer who has submitted an "apprentice" manuscript may be admitted if the Directors think the author might profit from Staff criticism. The Staff critic will identify weaknesses in expression and structure and will suggest what might be done to improve the writing. The improvement itself is the author's responsibility; what the author learns, it is hoped, will be helpful in future literary efforts.

The basis of admission for an Auditor will be evidence the applicant offers of serious literary interest, such as published work or active concern with writing or the teaching of writing or literature.

Application procedure: Those who have already corresponded with the Conference will automatically receive an application form and a bulletin, which will give information about Staff for the current year and detailed information about the Conference session. Others may request this material from the Bread Loaf Secretary.

Applications are accepted only for the whole session. The restrictions of space at Bread Loaf, in seminar rooms, workshops, and living quarters, make it impossible to accommodate guests of Conference members, unless they too are enrolled. Only in unusual circumstances can applicants who have not reached college age be considered for admission.

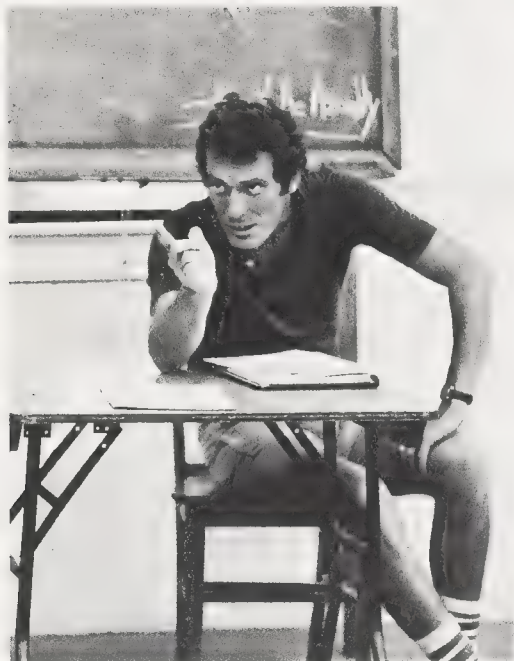
A sample schedule of a previous year (1974) will give an impression as to how the Conference is organized.

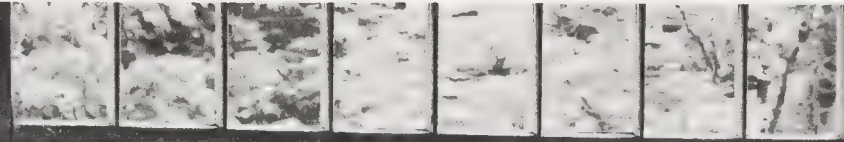
LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, WORKSHOPS, and EVENING LECTURES or READINGS

| | 9:00 | 10:15 | 11:30 | 2:00 | 3:15 | 8:00 |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Tues. AUG. 13 | REGISTRATION | | | | | Pack & Martin; Marvin Bell; Reception |
| Wed. AUG. 14 | Poetry lecture: Hecht | Fiction lecture: Epstein | Nonfiction lecture: Goodman | Poetry lecture: Strand | Writing for Children: Segal | Walter Goodman |
| Thurs. AUG. 15 | Fiction lecture: Elliott | Poetry lecture: Pack | Teaching Writing: Thurston | DISCUSSION GROUPS | | Mark Strand |
| Fri. AUG. 16 | Stephen Sheppard (Reynolds Agency) | Poetry lecture: Starbuck | Fiction lecture: Gardner | Larry Raab; Bread Loaf Fellows | | Seymour Epstein |
| Sat. AUG. 17 | Fiction lecture: Gass | Poetry lecture: Bell | Young Adult Fiction: Katie Lyle | DISCUSSION GROUPS 3:30 - Ned Arnold (Liveright) | | Robert Pack |
| Sun. AUG. 18 | | | | | Rosellen Brown | George Elliott |
| Mon. AUG. 19 | Paul Gray (<i>Time</i> Magazine) | Fiction lecture: Brown | Poetry lecture: Van Duyn | Francine Prose; Bread Loaf Fellows | | George Starbuck |

WORKSHOPS, LECTURES, and EVENING LECTURES

| | 9:00 | 10:45 | 2:00 | 3:30 | 8:00 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Tues. AUG. 20 | Workshops: Pack Epstein | Workshops: Gass Bell | Workshops: Van Duyn Brown | Bread Loaf Fellows | John Gardner |
| Wed. AUG. 21 | Workshops: Hecht Elliott | Workshops: Strand Goodman | Bread Loaf Fellows | | Mona Van Duyn |
| Thurs. AUG. 22 | Workshops: Gardner Starbuck | Workshops: Pack Segal | Workshops: Gass Van Duyn | Richard Marek (Dial Press) | Lore Segal |
| Fri. AUG. 23 | Workshops Brown Strand | Workshops: Epstein Hecht | Workshops: Elliott Starbuck | Wendy Weil (Julian Bach Agency) | William Gass |
| Sat. AUG. 24 | Workshops: Bell Goodman | Workshops: Segal Gardner | Barbara Damrosch, Hilda Gregory, Jarvis Thurston (Little Magazines) | | Anthony Hecht |
| Sun. AUG. 25 | DEPARTURE (last meal served at noon) | | | | |





**Fellowships and
Scholarship
Assistance**

Writers' Conference

Fellowships, and scholarship assistance, have been made available by friends and by the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Endowment Fund. Fellowships pay all regular charges at Bread Loaf, but not traveling expenses. Normally, scholarship assistance is for full or partial tuition. A committee of the Conference Staff makes the awards guided by the following policies:

- 1 Personal applications are not accepted.
- 2 To be considered either for a Fellowship, or for scholarship assistance, a candidate must be nominated by an editor, publisher, literary agent, well-known writer, or teacher. Nominations may be made informally in a letter to one of the Directors.
- 3 Candidates for Fellowships are assumed to have published a book or to have had a book-length manuscript accepted for publication.
- 4 Candidates for scholarship assistance usually have been published in periodicals.
- 5 Those not awarded Fellowships are considered for scholarship assistance; those not awarded such assistance may be eligible for working scholarships (see below).
- 6 All nominations must be made by April 15. Supporting manuscripts or published work must reach the Bread Loaf office by May 1. Announcements of the awards are made in June.

There are about 22 working scholarships for young men and women willing to earn some of their fees by waiting on table. Their duties require about three hours of work each day; the schedule is arranged so that they need miss none of the Conference activities. Waiters earn their room and board and in addition receive scholarship assistance for part of their tuition. Application blanks may be obtained by writing to the Bread Loaf Secretary. Early application is desirable, since most of these scholarships are awarded before June 15.



Writers' Conference

The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Endowment Fund, established by friends of Bread Loaf, makes possible the award of Fellowships and scholarship assistance. The following awards are either provided by the Fund, or supported from year to year:

THE ROBERT FROST FELLOWSHIP IN POETRY is sponsored by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., original publishers of Mr. Frost's poetry.

THE BERNARD DE VOTO FELLOWSHIP IN PROSE is provided in alternate years by the Houghton Mifflin Company in memory of the late Bernard De Voto, long a member of the Conference Staff.

THE FLETCHER PRATT FELLOWSHIP IN PROSE is endowed with funds given by friends of the late Fletcher Pratt, in memory of his long service at Bread Loaf.

THE WILLIAM RANEY FELLOWSHIP IN PROSE is made possible through the generosity of many friends and colleagues, and commemorates William Raney's devotion to Bread Loaf.

THE ALAN COLLINS FELLOWSHIP IN PROSE has been established by Catherine Collins in memory of her husband, Alan Collins, former president of Curtis Brown, Ltd., and for many years a Conference Staff member.

THE WEEKLY READER CHILDREN'S BOOK CLUB FELLOWSHIP IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN has been made possible through the generosity of the Weekly Reader Children's Book Club and Wesleyan University.

THE JOHN ATHERTON FELLOWSHIPS are awarded annually in memory of John Atherton, the artist and writer; these three Fellowships have been endowed by M.B. Wyckoff.

THE MARGARET S. BRIDGMAN AWARDS are two Fellowships, or scholarship assistance, and will be given to writers of prose or poetry, from a special fund endowed as a memorial by John M. Bridgman and the many friends of Peggy Bridgman.

THE TRANSATLANTIC REVIEW AWARDS will go to young writers of prose or poetry; a Fellowship or two tuition scholarships, and a waiter's scholarship are made possible by the *Transatlantic Review*.

THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS in prose or poetry are provided by the National Arts Club; two full scholarships (tuition, room, and board) will be awarded to students from colleges or universities in the New York City area.

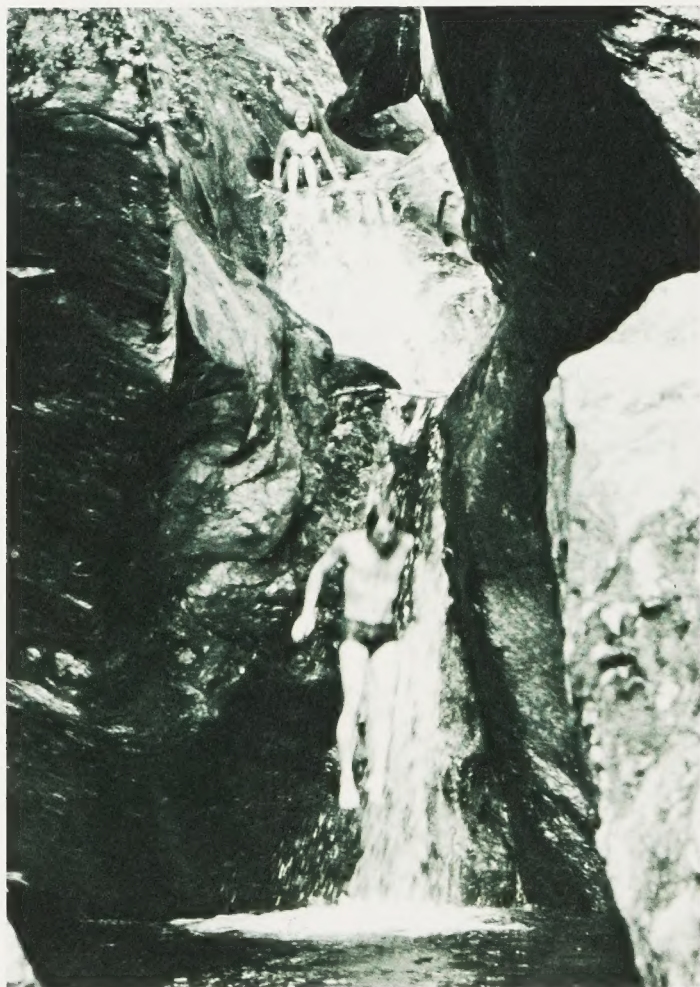
Expenses

Writers' Conference

Expenses: The right is reserved to make any changes, without notice, in program and courses, fees, Staff, living arrangements, etc. Current charges are listed in the Writers' Conference bulletin.

A non-refundable \$50 deposit, credited to the total fees, is payable within two weeks after the applicant has been accepted. Receipt of this deposit assures an accepted applicant of a place at the Conference until August 1. Bills for the balance of the fees are mailed on July 1, payable within the month. After August 1, any accepted Conference member who has not paid the total bill is placed on a waiting list, and vacancies are filled as payment is received.

Program material is sent to all former Conference members. Others wishing to be on the permanent mailing list are requested to inform the Bread Loaf Office.





For information about Vermont in the summer:

Middlebury Chamber of Commerce
Court Street
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Greater Vermont Association
Box 37
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Information and Travel Division
Vermont Agency of Development
and Community Affairs
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

The Bread Loaf Mountain Campus of Middlebury College is twelve miles from the town of Middlebury, Vermont, home of the main campus of the College. The Bread Loaf School of English and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference are two summer programs of the Middlebury College Language Schools. Other programs include the Schools of Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish; and the Graduate Schools of French, German, Italian and Spanish in Europe. For further information about the foreign language programs, write: Office of the Director, Middlebury Language Schools, Middlebury, Vt. 05753.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BULLETIN

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